

U.S. to Drop Case Against Leslie Bacon

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (AP)—Federal bomb conspiracy charges against antiwar activist Leslie Bacon will be dropped by the federal government to avoid disclosing the content of sealed wiretaps, authorities said today.

U.S. District Court Judge Sylvester J. Ryan, who had ordered the government to disclose the surveillance material today or face contempt, was advised by the U.S. attorney's office that the case would be dismissed in the near future.

Ryan gave Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard J. Davis until this Friday to file the dismissal papers.

Miss Bacon, 21, of Atherton, Calif. had been charged with conspiracy to fire-bomb a First National City Bank branch here nearly two years ago.

She was arrested 18 months ago and held as a material witness in the bombing of the Capitol building in Washington in March 1971.

She was indicted on perjury charges in connection with her grand jury testimony about the Capitol bombing. But the Justice Department last summer dropped those charges rather than disclose the contents of its wiretaps.

In the charge involving the First National City branch at Madison Ave. and 91st St., Miss Bacon was accused along with five others. The five were arrested outside the bank and later pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit arson.

Miss Bacon, who was not present at the bank on that day, was indicted on conspiracy charges believed to have been based on wiretapped conversations.

(The Justice Department has previously dropped several other cases on the same grounds, including contempt charges against Black Panther Bobby G. Seale, an indictment against Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman, and a Michigan case against members of the White Panther Party.)